



**FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION**

**ROY WILKINS**

**PART 10 OF 11**

**BUFILE: 62-78270**

# Section 10

RECORDED

50-1359-1

(b)(7)(E)

November 16, 1937

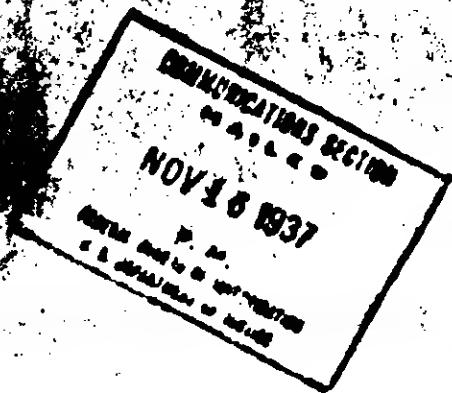
RECORDED FOR ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL, BIRMINGHAM

This will acknowledge receipt of your memorandum dated November 13, 1937, transmitting a photostatic copy of a letter to the Attorney General from Mr. Bay Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York, New York dated November 11, 1937, relative to an alleged violation of the Fugitive Slave Statute at Malley, Arkansas.

This matter has been referred to the Little Rock, Arkansas Office of this Bureau for investigation, and you will be appropriately advised of all developments in this case.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



(b)(7)(E)

DOOR [REDACTED] (b)(6)(E)  
4-50-1399-2

RECORDED

November 16, 1937

50-1399

Special Agent in Charge,  
Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dear Sirs:

Attached hereto are copies of a letter dated November 11, 1937 received by the Attorney General from Mr. Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City, wherein it is stated that thirty negroes are being held virtually as slaves in a stockade at Malley, Arkansas, and are being worked at the point of guns.

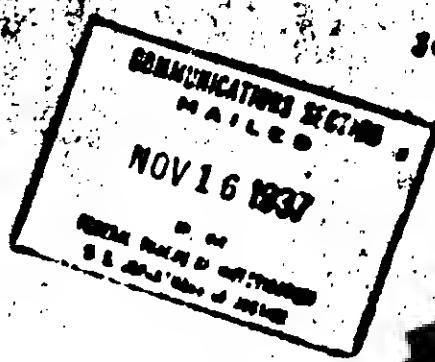
(b)(6)(E)(D)

You are requested to conduct a discreet investigation relative to Mr. Wilkins' allegations to determine whether a violation of the Peonage Statute is involved herein.

This matter should be placed in line for prompt investigative attention, and a report should be submitted to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



(b)(6)(E)

WDW

January 6, 1938.

50-1359

Special Agent in Charge  
Little Rock, Arkansas.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT,  
ROY WILKINS, COMPLAINT,  
MESSAGE.

Dear Sir:

The Bureau file on the above entitled case  
indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative  
attention in your Division.

This matter should be placed in line for early  
investigative attention and you should submit a report to  
the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover.

ENCL: 1

50-1359-2

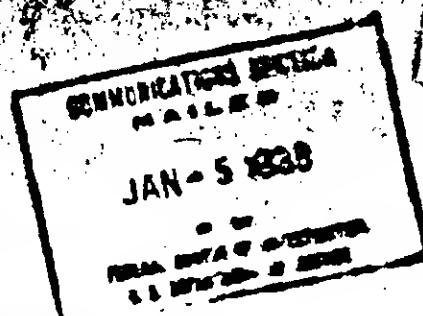
JAN 11 1938 - 2

RECEIVED - 2

SEARCHED - 2

INDEXED - 2

FILED - 2



Federal Bureau of Investigation  
United States Department of Justice  
Post Office Box 1469  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
January 13, 1938

Director  
Federal Bureau of Investigation  
Washington, D. C.

RE: SUBJECT SUBJECTS:  
ROY WILSON; COMPLAINANT;  
FEDERAL

Dear Sir:

Reference is made to Bureau communication of January 3, 1938 (50-1359), which instructs that this matter be given prompt investigative attention.

The failure to give this matter attention at an earlier date has been due to the fact that the agent to whom the case has been assigned has been unable to proceed with the investigation due to other matters which he has been handling elsewhere. This matter will be given attention at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

*John E. Dickey*  
JOHN E. DICKEY,  
Special Agent in Charge.

RECORDED

50-1359-3

Jan 17 1938

Post Office Box 1400  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
January 19, 1938

Special Agent in Charge  
New York, New York

Mr. **WILLIAM COOPER,**  
**DEPUTY ATTORNEY, COMPLAINT,**  
**PAROLE.**

Dear Sir:

Under date of November 11, 1937, Mr. Roy Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, 20 Park Avenue, New York City, addressed a communication to the Attorney General, in which he advises that thirty negroes are being held virtually as slaves in a stockade at **Malley, Arkansas**, and are being worked at the point of gun. It is stated in this letter that the information has been relayed to Mr. Wilkins by way of Chicago, Illinois, and he urges an immediate investigation of this allegation at **Malley**.

For your information, several complaints have been received through the above named organization, one particularly to which I refer, is a complaint made by **[REDACTED] Memphis, Tennessee**, who, on July 14, 1937, addressed a letter to the Department of Justice, in Washington, complaining of the fact that three negro boys who were residents of **[REDACTED]**, had been detained at **Malley, Arkansas**, on a plantation of one **[REDACTED]**. For your complete information, I am enclosing a copy of this communication, together with the report of Special Agent **[REDACTED]** dated at **[REDACTED] Tennessee**, September 24, 1937, which sets forth in detail the information in the effect that the victims, **[REDACTED]**, all injured, were at that time residing in Chicago and New York City.

Special Agent **[REDACTED]** of this office, conducted investigation in connection with this matter, same being reflected in his report rendered in connection with the above mentioned case and dated November 11, 1937, copy of which Report is furnished for your information.

The letter was presented in its entirety to the United States Attorney, at Little Rock, on November 8, 1937, at which time prosecution was declined. In view of the fact that the Foreign Statute, in the opinion of one of the State Attorney, had not been violated.

It appears that there be a possibility that the **[REDACTED]** complaint is based upon information which is an outgrowth of the case entitled **[REDACTED]**, and it is for this reason that

50-1359-3X

ONE

Special Agent in Charge  
New York, New York

January 17, 1936

The matter is being referred to your office, with the request that Mr. Wilkins be interviewed and that full and complete information be obtained from him concerning the thirty persons, or at least a few of them, who are being held at Malley, Arkansas, in order that the investigation may be brought to a logical conclusion. At the present time, appropriate inquiry is being made by agents of this office at Malley, Arkansas, particularly as

(b)6(d)

It is further desired that you ascertain from Mr. Wilkins the sources of his information, in order that the complainants may be interviewed.

Very truly yours,

CHARLES PLATCHE,  
Special Agent in Charge.

13b(c)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

Form No. 1  
TIME CASE ORIGINATED AT

Little Rock, Ark.

N.Y. FILED **b7c**

REPORT NUMBER <b>NEW YORK CITY</b>	DATE WHICH MADE <b>2/1/38</b>	REPORT PERIOD <b>1/27, 29, 31/38</b>	REPORT NUMBER <b>[REDACTED] b7c</b>
NAME OF SUBJECT <b>ROY WILKINS - COMPLAINANT</b>	CHARACTER OF CASE <b>PEONAGE</b>		

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS

Roy Wilkins, National Association for Advancement of Colored People, advised his information relative to alleged violation of Peonage Statute at Halley, Arkansas obtained from his Association's representative in Chicago and no information about persons held yet received.

R. U. C.

REFERENCE:

Letter from Little Rock Office dated January 17, 1938.

DETAILS:

AT NEW YORK CITY

ROY WILKINS, (colored), Assistant Secretary of the National Association for Advancement of Colored People, 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City, was interviewed by the writer relative to the communication addressed to the Attorney General under date of November 11, 1937, in which he advised that thirty negroes were being held, virtually as slaves, in a stockade at Halley, Arkansas, and are being worked at the point of guns. Wilkins indicated in his letter that the information had been relayed to him by way of Chicago, Ills.

DO NOT WRITE IN THESE SPACES		
1 - Bureau 2 - Little Rock 3 - Chicago 4 - New York	50 11359 4	FEB 7 1938
FEB - 1 A.M.		
C. S. 500		

50-3.

At the time of the writer's interview with Mr. Wilkins, he stated that the only information he had relative to the alleged violation of the Fugitive Statute at Halley, Arkansas, was contained in a telegram addressed to Attorney CHARLES E. HOUSTON, of the Association, at 69 Fifth Avenue, New York City, from GEORGE A. PLAKEY, the Chicago representative of the Association. He exhibited the telegram to the writer which is being set forth at this point for ready reference:

November 10, 1937

Attorney Charles E. Houston,  
69 Fifth Avenue  
New York City

[REDACTED] TOGETHER WITH THIRTY OTHER NEGROES SOLD AND HELD SLAVES IN STOCKADE AT HALLEY ARKANSAS FIFTEEN AT POINT OF GUNS HAVE FEDERAL OFFICES INVESTIGATE AT ONCE EXTREME CAUTION OF FEDERAL DEPARTMENT TO [REDACTED] PROTECT PRISONERS LIVES [REDACTED]

(b)(c), (b)

(signed) George A. Plakey  
Chicago Branch N.A.A.C.P.,  
Room 215, 345 State St.,  
Chicago, Ill. "

As indicated in the above mentioned communication to the Attorney General, Wilkins stated that he had no information as to the names of the negroes allegedly held in bondage aside from the [REDACTED] mentioned in the telegram, and he suggested that agents of the Bureau interview George A. Plakey at Chicago, Illinois for more detailed information.

(b)(1)(A)

He indicated at this time that he had no information about the alleged violation of the Fugitive Statute involving negroes [REDACTED] from Memphis, Tenn., in DeSoto County, Arkansas, in June 1937, as reflected in the reports of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Little Rock, Arkansas, dated December 1, 1937, and Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Memphis, Tenn., September 24, 1937.

(b)(1)(C)

SO-S.

b7c b7d

This is being, or has been, interviewed by agents of the Little Rock Office at [REDACTED] with reference to this matter.

DEVELOPED LEADS:

CHICAGO OFFICE:

At Chicago, Ill. - Will interview GEORGE A. HARRIS, National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Room 213, 345 South State Street, for detailed information relative to the alleged violation of the Peonage Statute, as contained in his telegram to the New York office of the Association, dated November 10, 1937, as set out in the body of this report.

The names and addresses of the negroes allegedly held, together with the details surrounding their arrest, should be obtained.

REFERRED UPON COMPLETION TO OFFICE OF ORIGIN.

MARCH 1, 1938

[REDACTED] (b) (5) (c)

50-1359

Special Agent in Charge,  
Little Rock, Arkansas.

RE: UNKNOWN SUBJECT;  
BOY SELLING - COMPLAINANT;  
PROHIB.

Dear Sir:

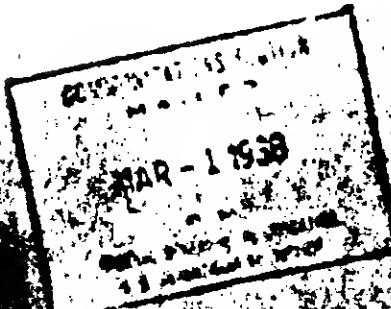
The Bureau file in the above entitled case indicates that this case is not receiving prompt investigative attention in your division.

This matter should be placed in line for early investigative attention and you should submit a report to the Bureau at the earliest possible date.

Very truly yours,

J. E. Hoover

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



RECORDED

50-1359-5

MAR 1 1938 A.M.

U. S. DEPT. OF JUSTICE

RECORDED  
OCT 13 1938

CLASS OF SERVICE DESIRED	
DOMESTIC	FOREIGN
TELEGRAM	DAY DATE
DAY LETTER	EX-PRESS
NIGHT MESSAGE	EX-PRESS
NIGHT LETTER	EX-PRESS CABLE
TELE	TELE
TELEGRAM	TELEGRAPH

NOTES SHOULD CHECK CLASS OF SERVICE  
NOTED STRAIGHT FORWARD WILL BE TRANSMITTED AS A FULL-DAY MESSAGE

# Postal Telegraph

THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM



RECEIVER'S NUMBER

TIME FILED

STANDARD TIME

Send the following message, subject to the terms on back hereof, in which are hereby agreed to

FBI LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

MAY 7, 1938 1:20 PM

D. W. LADD  
FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION  
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
1900 BAKERS BUILDING  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS

EXSUB RAY WILKINS COMPLAINT PROHAGE DISCONTINUE CASE CLOSED

FLETCHER

50-1327-  
MAY 10 1938 A.M.  
FILED 7:50  
FBI - LITTLE ROCK

OFFICIAL BUSINESS  
GOVERNMENT RATE  
CHARGE - FBI LITTLE ROCK

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

DATE NO. 8  
THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT

LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

FILE NO.

E-12

REPORT NUMBER OF	DATE WHEN MADE	REPORT NUMBER
LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS	5-6-38	6-28 5-3-38
NAME	CHARACTER OF CASE	
THE N.A.A.C.P. ATT. ATT. FOR THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE	(b)(6)(C)	
	PHOTOGRAPH	

SYNOPSIS OF FACTS:

No evidence was offered to indicate complaint by National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York, New York, that thirty negroes are being held virtually as slaves in a stockade at Malley, Arkansas, and worked at the point of gun, it is alleged.

b6(b), b7c

United States Attorney at  
Little Rock, certified prosecution,  
May 3, 1938.

- 3 -

REFERENCE:

Bureau letter dated December 10, 1937.

Report of Special Agent  
New York City, dated February 1, 1938.

DETAILS:

This investigation is predicated upon a letter received by the Attorney General from Mr. WENDELL WILLKIE, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City, dated December 11, 1937, in which it was stated that thirty negroes were being held virtually as slaves in a stockade at Malley, Arkansas, and were

not allowed to leave without permission.

50-41359 + 6

MAY 10 1938

New York City  
Special Agent in Charge  
Date dictated from interview  
2-12-38  
MAY 12 1938

been worked at the point of [REDACTED]

This letter was referred by the Attorney General to the Bureau for appropriate investigation.

b6 b7c (b)

(b6 b7c) (b)

These facts were discussed on May 3, 1938 with the United States Attorney, Fred A. Legg, at Little Rock, Arkansas, who stated that there is no indication of any violation of the Peonage Statute; that the county work farm at Halley, Arkansas was a regular detention farm for prisoners, and as long as the prisoners were formally charged and sentenced in the Court of Law they were lawfully detained; that since there was no indication that any negroes were being unlawfully detained at Halley, Arkansas, prosecution would not be authorized in this case.

ENCLOSURES  
TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, LITTLE ROCK.

Letter dated November 22, 1937 from Brian McElroy, Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, Washington, D. C. to FRED A. LEFKOW, United States Attorney, Little Rock, Arkansas.

ENCLOSURES: (Cont.)

TO THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY, LITTLE ROCK.

Photostatic copy of letter dated November 11,  
1967 from ROY WILKINS, Assistant Secretary, National Association  
for the Advancement of Colored People, New York City,  
New York to the Attorney General at Washington, D. C.

C L O S E D

50-1359-6

b6(b)

May 16, 1938

Re: UNKNOWN SUBJECT  
NOT WELDERS - Complaint  
PROHAR

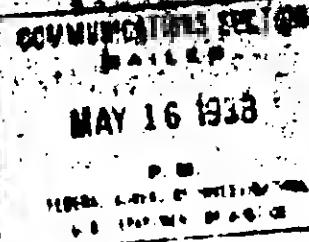
Reference is made to my memorandum of November 16, 1937, acknowledging the receipt of your memorandum dated November 13, 1937, relative to an alleged violation of the Peonage Statute at Dallas, Arkansas, reported to the Attorney General by Mr. Ray Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, New York, New York.

Please be advised that investigation of this matter has been completed by the Little Rock, Arkansas, office of this Bureau, with the result that it has been ascertained that no factual basis exists for the allegations made.

A copy of the report of Special Agent [REDACTED] dated at Little Rock, Arkansas, May 6, 1938, reporting the closing of this investigation, has already been furnished to you.

Very truly yours,

John Edgar Hoover,  
Director.



b6(b)

# FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

THIS CASE ORIGINATED AT LITTLE ROCK, ARKANSAS

FILE NO. 50-3

REPORT MADE BY Chicago, Ill.	DATE OF INFORMATION 5/16/38	REPORT MADE BY 4/22, 28/38	REPORT MADE BY [REDACTED] (b)(6)(C) [REDACTED]
NAME [REDACTED] (b)(6)(C)	POSITION SUBJECTS RAY WELDERS - CO-PLAINTANT	CHARACTER OF CASE PROSECUTION	
SYNOPSIS OF FACTS [REDACTED] (b)(6)(C)	GEORGE A. BLAKEY, Chicago, informed [REDACTED] (b)(6)(C) no information.		
	R.O.C.		
REFERENCE: Report of Special Agent New York City, dated 2/1/38.	(b)(6)(C)		
DETAILS: AT CHICAGO, ILLINOIS:	<p>GEORGE A. BLAKEY, Negro Attorney, 3456 South State Street, upon interview informed that he was an attorney as well as a member of the Executive Committee for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the offices of this association being just across the hall from those of MR. BLAKEY. He informed that during November, 1937, upon receipt of the original complaint in this matter from [REDACTED] (b)(6)(C) he merely relayed the information to the national headquarters of the association at New York City in the absence of the President of the association at Chicago. He stated that he furnished the national headquarters of New York of this association with a copy of the complaint letter which [REDACTED] (b)(6)(C)</p>		
<p>SEARCHED INDEXED SERIALIZED FILED FBI - CHICAGO</p> <p>Bureau - 3 Little Rock - 3 Chicago - 2</p>		<p>DO NOT DESTROY OR REMOVE FROM OFFICE</p> <p>30-1359-7</p> <p>MAY 18 1938</p> <p>MAY 18 A.M.</p>	

BLAKLEY was unable to locate his file on this matter, and, accordingly, informed Agent that he could not furnish him with any other information, whereupon suggesting an interview with [REDACTED] BLAKLEY stated that in the event he found his file containing a copy of the original of this letter from [REDACTED] he would advise the Chicago Office of this [REDACTED] is aware that the file might be made available to an Agent.

DETERMINED UPON COMPLETION OF THE SERVICE OF ORIGIN.

Post Office Box 1448  
Little Rock, Arkansas  
May 20, 1960

Director,  
Federal Bureau of Investigation,  
Washington, D. C.

## Dear Sirs,

Reference is made to your letter dated May 27, 1938 (80-1889), pertaining to the information contained in a letter directed by the Memphis Office to the Bureau dated May 16, 1938, with respect to

Reference is respectfully made to the cases entitled as follows:

Pease", Little Rock Origin  
and Little Rock, Little Rock, Complaint; Pease",  
Little Rock Origin, Bureau File No 80-1889  
Pease", Little Rock Origin, Bureau

All of these cases reflect an initial complaint similar or identical with that contained in the letter of the Memphis Office dated May 16, 1938, and it is particularly noted that that letter reflects the lawful conviction of [REDACTED]

As indicated in the above引文, these facts have been presented to the United States Attorney at Little Rock, Arkansas, and he has consistently advised that so long as the plantation constitutes a regular detention farm for prisoners, and so long as prisoners are lawfully charged and sentenced in a court of law, they are lawfully detained and there is no indication of violation of the Peacage Statute.

the last year when I left the school and I had to go to the hospital.

3000 plus miles owned and operated by is a  
truck line doing business for St. Francis, Cross and Woodruff Counties, and  
in Arkansas, the point of the alleged offense, is located in  
Arkansas. 4254

REPORT 50-1357-  
It is respectfully requested that this office and the appropriate  
agency be advised whether an investigation is desired in view of the fact  
that the United States Attorney's office holds that these facts, as  
indicated, do not constitute a violation of the Perjury Statute.

1977年春期

R. B. Patterson,  
Special Agent in Charge.

總經理：GARY MCKEE